

BONN DENIES A ROLE IN AUGSTEIN INQUIRY

Special to The New York Times
BONN, Jan. 22—A spokesman denied today that the West German Government had had a role in initiating a new investigation of the magazine publisher Rudolf Augstein on suspicion of treason.

It was disclosed yesterday that the Federal Attorney in Karlsruhe had begun an inquiry in connection with two articles recently published in the weekly news magazine *Der Spiegel*.

Mr. Augstein and an editor of the magazine, Conrad Ahlers, are already charged with endangering the security of the state by publishing secret information on the nation's defenses.

Their arrest in November, 1962, was widely regarded as a personal feud initiated by former Defense Minister Franz Josef Strauss, who was subsequently forced to resign in a Government crisis.

A Government spokesman said today that the Ministry of Justice had nothing to do with the new investigation although Minister of Justice Ewald Bucher had been informed of the Federal Attorney's action.

The crime in question is "treason through publication" of state secrets. The occasion of the new inquiry against Mr. Augstein is a rhetorical question he put in an article last November asking whether it had been denied that Mr. Strauss ordered a study of preventive attack on the Soviet Union in 1962.

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